

The Tri-Weekly CITIZEN.

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CANTON, MISS.

TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 29.

Efficiency Consists not in Numbers.

It has been suggested by the Richmond press with much show of reason, that if the Government cannot enforce the laws already enacted relative to conscripts and stragglers, it is vain for Congress to extend the conscript act with the view to fill up the ranks of the army. Certainly, if, out of 23,000 men comprising the army of Tenn., 23,000 are now absent, it may well be questioned whether this evil should not be remedied before any further drain upon our depleted population is made. Another very important consideration for Congress seems to be, whether it would not be better to feed and clothe the troops already in the field, than to fill the places of stragglers and absentees with raw recruits, who, unless they be fed and clothed, will in turn become stragglers and deserters. The books in the War Department are said to show an army of between four and five hundred thousand men. These men, well provisioned and comfortably clad, would be more efficient than would double their number on half or quarter rations, and without comfortable clothing. Hundreds of our soldiers are dying in the hospitals daily from diseases contracted by cold and unwholesome food, and many more have deserted and are now straggling through the country from similar causes. This state of affairs cannot be remedied by an extension of the Conscript Act; it may be remedied by some measure to feed and clothe the army, but by nothing else. It does not seem to require any high order of statesmanship to comprehend this fact. A little common sense is all that is necessary, and we venture the assertion if members of Congress will lay aside buncomb, and set themselves to work to improve the condition of the army, not to enlarge it, we will have better times when the spring campaign opens.

FORT JACKSON.

The Mobile Evening News says, the mutiny of black troops in the pay of the Yankees is a feature in the war. It will prove a thorn to the Yankees and provoke disagreeable suggestions in Boston and Exeter Hall. The example is one likely to become contagious. Sambo has already found out that Yankees do not know how to treat respectable darkies. It takes the Southern gentleman to know how to place and to appreciate him. The suggestion has been made that President Davis ought at once to offer by proclamation freedom to every Southern negro who is enlisted in the Yankee army, on condition of coming to our lines, with his arms and accoutrements. A general contraband Hegira following such a proclamation, would astonish and frighten Abraham Lincoln out of at least two years of his time of perpetual Dictator.

Gen. Banks, by the way, is having his temper sadly ruffled by events in his military dominions. Dick Taylor bangs his Generals wherever he meets them; the Mississippi river is too hot for transports, and now his niggers have turned upon him, murdered all the Yankee officers over them, and are holding Fort Jackson for the benefit of their lawful masters. Banks must be disgusted.

Capt. Moorman, Gen. Jackson's A. A. Gen'l, and Major Holt, Gen. Lee's A. A. Gen'l, have our thanks for late northern papers.

The War Department at Richmond has decided adversely to the appeal of those taken as conscripts from the Orange Factory, N. C., on the ground that the company have exacted more than seventy-five per cent. profit, in violation of the act of Congress.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM ORANGE C. H.

MONROE, Dec. 28.—ORANGE C. H. Dec. 27.—General Rosser made the circuit of the entire Yankee army during the past week, starting from Fredericksburg and entering the valley at Centrol's store. He burnt the bridge over Pope's Head Run, near Alexandria, capturing and destroying troops left as guards, but owing to high water and bad weather, was prevented from doing more. Our loss slight, if any.

Parties from Culpepper report—Enemy pulling down all vacant houses within their line, including churches, in order to construct winter quarters.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, 26th.—Nothing unusual to-day. One hundred and thirty shells fired at city from Thursday night to Friday afternoon. The damage is comparatively trifling.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, 27th.—The steamer New York arrived at City Point yesterday with seven officers, five surgeons and five hundred enlisted men. No sick or wounded.

All matters connected with exchange of prisoners have been turned over to General Butler, and the impression prevails that the cartel will be resumed.

The Baltimore American of 23d received last night. News unimportant.

RICHMOND, 27th.—Late Northern dates state that the steamer Chesapeake has been captured and her crew turned over to authorities at Halifax, but on reaching the wharf, citizens assembled and rescued them. The affair caused great excitement at Halifax.

PRIZE FIGHT BETWEEN HEENAN AND KING—KING THE VICTOR.

European dates received to the 12th. In the fight between Heenan and King, on the morning of the 10th, at Tunbridge, King won in twenty-five rounds, the fight having lasted thirty-one minutes.

English papers give moderate accounts of the fight. The Times devotes a leader to the affair. It says Heenan's game throughout was to clench and put the hug on. King's tactics consisted in striking a series of sledge-hammer blows on Heenan's phiz, until the latter collapsed from sheer exhaustion. The Times insists that prize fighting is more revolting than bull fighting, and ought to be discountenanced.

Russia, in regard to European Peace Congress, expresses dissatisfaction.

Confederate loan was at thirty-five to forty discount.

FROM BRISTOL.

MOBILE, 24th, from BRISTOL, 23d Dec.—Our forces still around Rogersville and Morris-town. Cannonading heard in that direction Sunday evening.

Longstreet was unable to follow up his advantage, in consequence of large number of barefooted men in his command.

Weather cold and mountains covered with snow.

THE MUTINY AT FORT JACKSON.

The following is published in the Advertiser, dated

MAGNOLIA, 23d.—News from Doans (?) say he saw released prisoners from New Orleans. They were fighting yesterday. Six thousand negroes in Fort Jackson, and all the gunboats sent down with three thousand troops.

(Signed) J. D. KNOX.

We learn from another source that the garri-son in Fort St. Philip joined in the mutiny.

MOBILE, 25th, from BRISTOL, 24th.—There is no change in front. Weather prevents movements by either party. Enemy's pickets twelve miles this side of Knoxville.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, 24th.—No change of importance. A few shots have been fired from our batteries at working parties on Morris Island, but the enemy made no reply.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, 24th.—Bill which passed House yesterday to put men in the army who furnished substitutes; came up to-day in Senate, and it appears met with favor of a majority of that body, and a strong disposition was manifested to pass it at once, but it was postponed and made a special order for Monday next.

NORTHERN NEWS.

The Chicago Times of the 11th gives the following northern news, in brief:

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Sumner gave notice of a bill to repeal all acts for the rendition of fugitive slaves. In the House, notice was given of a bill to admit members of the Cabinet to seats on the floor of Congress, with the right to debate matters pertaining to their respective departments. Rev. W. H. Channing, Unitarian, was elected Chaplain.—Bishop Hopkins, Episcopalian, receiving the next largest number of votes. Both Houses adjourned till Monday.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury was sent into Congress yesterday. A synopsis will be found in our telegraphic columns. His estimates for the next fiscal year are as follows: Receipts from ordinary sources, \$206,000,000; expenditures, \$751,000,000,—leaving \$545,000,000 to be provided for by loan. The public debt on the 30th of June, 1865, is estimated at \$2,231,000,000. Increase of taxes is recommended on bank note circulation, distilled spirits, tobacco, cotton, &c. Mr. Chase considers it inexpedient to increase the amount of circulating notes.

Meade's forces are encamped on the south bank of the Rappahannock, and Lee's on the north bank of the Rappidan. Both armies have virtually gone into winter quarters. There are rumors that Meade will be superseded by either Hooker or Thomas; but the opinion is expressed that no such change is likely at present. Secretary Stanton, however, is in favor of a complete reorganization of the Army of the Potomac.

It is supposed that Stevens, of Pennsylvania, will be appointed Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; Washburne, of Illinois, of the Committee on Commerce; Schenck, of Ohio, of the Military Committee; and Kelly, of Pennsylvania, of the Naval Committee.

The steamer Chesapeake, recently captured by rebels, is to be taken, if possible, into Wilmington. She coaled at St. Johns, where she took on a commander, and, at last advices, was off Cape Sable. John Morgan, it is reported, crossed the Cumberland river on Wednesday, near Burkesville.

A rebel dispatch reports that the Federals were defeated at Plaquemine, La., on the 25th ult., with the loss of 2000 men, and that the navigation of the Mississippi river is virtually closed.

Notice has been given in Congress of a resolution to secure an amendment of the constitution, prohibiting slavery forever throughout the United States. And a bill is to be introduced providing that the free States may recruit to fill their quotas in the rebel States.

It is intimated that an order will soon be issued prohibiting the distillation of whiskey in Illinois and Ohio. The corn crop for the present year, it appears, exhibits a decrease of about 150,000,000 bushels, and will fall 135,000,000 bushels short of the amount required for home consumption alone.

The question is being agitated whether the prisoners (under the rank of colonel) now held by the Federals may not avail themselves of the amnesty proffered by the President.

A Paris journal states that all the continental powers have acceded to the proposition of a European Congress, with the exception of Austria.

The Chicago Times of the 12th gives the following resume of the news:

Seizure of the steamer Chesapeake was a bold affair. She was bound from New York to Portland, with a cargo valued at \$180,000, and was taken possession of on Monday morning, about 1 o'clock, by a party of rebels numbering about sixteen, who were apparently unarmed and inoffensive passengers. The Captain was put in irons, the Second Engineer shot dead and thrown overboard, and some other of the officers wounded. This proceeding took place about twenty-one miles northeast of Cape Cod. The officers and crew, together with the passengers, were landed by the captors at Partridge Island, and the steamer then started off to sea. At last advices she was off the coast of Nova Scotia. Several Federal vessels are in pursuit.

Congress, it is believed, will impose a heavier tax upon whiskey than is recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury. The amount will probably be 75 cents or a \$1 on a gallon.

Advices from Europe are to the 29th ult. The rebel steamers Rappahannock and Georgia had arrived at French ports. The former was seized by the customs authorities, but was subsequently released. She was formerly a British war-vessel, and had been purchased by the Confederates, with three others, which were

sitting out in the Thames. It is intimated that France, in consequence of England's objections to the proposed Congress, may form a new and more intimate alliance elsewhere.

Gen. Grant, of Ark., formerly of the rebel army and who recently wrote a letter in favor of Lincoln's policies, has been exempted by the President from the penalties of treason, and reinstated in all his rights of property, excepting those relating to slaves.

Mexican intelligence is to the 27th ult. Gen. Comonfort had been killed in a fight with his own countrymen. The French army was making considerable progress. Juarez's government is powerless, anarchy reigning within his nominal jurisdiction.

Gold opened in New York yesterday at 151½ advanced to 152, and closed dull at 150½.

EXCERPTS FROM YANKEE PAPERS.

From the Chicago Times, 12th inst.

On the opening of Congress the galleries were packed by the "loyal," who cheered upon the announcement of votes giving "loyal" victories. We trust Mr. Colfax will have sufficient respect for his position, if from no other consideration, to enforce order in the galleries during the present session. The last one was frequently disgraced by noisy applause from that quarter, which Mr. Grow seldom attempted to quiet. The House of Representatives is, usually, as disorderly as a political caucus or town meeting, and requires no assistance from the galleries in making confusion. Washington is overflowing with army contractors, jobbers, shoddyites, and lobbyites. The "vacuum" of the land has gathered about the places of power, and defiled them with its reek and offensive odor. These have taken possession of the galleries, and are plying Congress with the same "pressure" which the Jacobins apply to the President. They hiss or applaud as the House pleases or displeases them. This was notoriously true during the last session, and was true at the opening on Monday. We shall see if Mr. Colfax can so far lift himself out of the mire of partisanship as to teach these people their places.

Gen. Butler, to borrow a sporting expression, is settling down to his gait on his new track. He charges one per cent. on all goods for the transportation of which a permit is granted; and one dollar for every pass into the interior. He requires an oath of allegiance from every person who desires to remain within the lines. He is organizing with great rapidity a force of colored cavalry, and is active in good works, if we credit his admirers. The permit system itself, under the regulations of Secretary Chase on the Mississippi, was an intolerable nuisance and tyranny, but Butler has improved on this system by his tax. His levying black mail on travelers who wish to go into the interior is a device original with himself, while compelling the inhabitants to take the oath of allegiance is wanton cruelty, because, while it will prove of no material benefit to us, subjects them to lawless reprisals from the Confederates. This has been proven repeatedly. When Butler does a politic, or just, or humane act, we shall rejoice in registering it, against his hitherto uniform cruelties.

Is it not a pity that a "disloyal" man should have been chosen to the mayoralty of the first city of the country? Great a pity as it is, it is nevertheless true. Mr. Gunther, just elected Mayor of New York, holds that "the sole great objects of this war are the restoration of the unity of the nation, the preservation of the constitution, and the supremacy of the laws of the country," and that is "disloyalty." That is the "disloyalty" of all we "copperheads," for that is just what we all hold. If New York was in the latitude of Baltimore, Mr. Gunther would not have been elected, for "disloyalists" are not permitted to vote or hold office there.

A few days ago, a Capt. Perkins of the 11th Tennessee Cavalry, applied to Gen. Rousseau for permission to take the oath of allegiance under the amnesty proclamation. He says in his letter that the actuneseesans in the rebel army, and that his eyes have been opened only since his capture.

The trial of Frank Gurley, the guerrilla who killed Gen. McCook a year ago, is now being concluded. He will undoubtedly be hung.

Mr. John Mitchell, says the Examiner, for sometime engaged with the Richmond Enquirer, has withdrawn from his late connection with the daily press.